

Application No.: 10/728,728
Filing Date: December 5, 2003

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed October 18, 2007, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the above-captioned application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following comments.

Allowed Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that Claims 26-29, 48-51, 61-64 and 73-76 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Claim 25 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of Claim 26; Claim 47 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of Claim 48; Claim 60 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of Claim 61; and Claim 72 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of Claim 73. Therefore, independent Claims 25, 47, 60 and 72 are in condition for allowance. Claims 27-29 have been amended to depend from amended Claim 25 and for at least this reason, these claims are also in condition for allowance. Claims 49-51 have been amended to depend from amended Claim 47 and for at least this reason, these claims are also in condition for allowance. Claims 62-64 have been amended to depend from amended Claim 60 and for at least this reason, these claims are also in condition for allowance. Claims 74-76 have been amended to depend from amended Claim 72 and for at least this reason, these claims are also in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections

Claims 25, 30, 31, 34-38, 47, 52, 53, 56-60, 65-72 and 77-82 stand rejected as anticipated by Eversull et al. (WO 03/090834 A2), or in the alternative, as obvious over Eversull in view of Gill et al. (EP 0206553). In addition, Claims 25, 30, 31, 34-38, 47, 52, 53, 56-60, 65-72 and 77-82 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Gill in view of Eversull.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the grounds for rejecting these claims. Nevertheless, to advance prosecution of the allowed subject matter, Applicants have chosen to amend the claims as described above and to cancel Claims 26, 30, 31, 34-38, 48, 52, 53, 56-59, 61, 65-71, 73 and 77-82. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the above-referenced rejected claims in their original or similar form in a continuing application.

No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, the Applicants are not conceding in this

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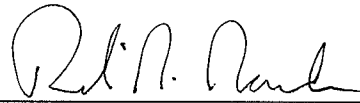
application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. The Applicants reserve the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that the Applicants have made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 1-18-08

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AMEND

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